AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.116 - EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Serial Number: 09/914,127

Filing Date: August 21, 2001

Title: METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE USE OF A PROGRAM SIGNAL IN A BROADCAST SYSTEM, AND CONTROL

DEVICE FOR A CARRYING OUT SUCH A METHOD

IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend the claims as follows.

- 1. (Currently Amended) A method to control the use of a program signal in a broadcast system, comprising one or more broadcasters and a number of receivers, at least a part some of the receivers having a storage medium to store program signals, wherein the program signal comprises content signals of a first and a second type, wherein the second type of content signals is inserted in time slots in the first type of content signals, wherein at least the first type of content signals is scrambled using control words as scrambling keys to obtain a scrambled program signal and wherein the scrambled program signal is broadcasted provided together with entitlement control messages (ECMs) containing the control words in an encrypted manner using a second key, wherein a decryptor is provided at each receiver for retrieving the control words from the ECMs by decrypting the ECMs, and wherein the control words are delivered by the decryptor for descrambling the program signal, and wherein at least a plurality of said ECMs containing the control words in an encrypted manner further comprises control information to control the decryptor in such a manner that the decryptor processes ECMs to deliver decrypted control words for descrambling at least the first type of content signals so as to maintain at least the time slots for second type of content signals in the first type of content signals during playback of the program signal.
- 2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a real time clock is operated at the receiver side, wherein the control information of an ECM near the beginning of a time slot for the second type of content signals indicates a delay before a next ECM can be decrypted by the decryptor.
- 3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ECMs comprise first ECMs for the first type of content signals and second ECMs for the second type of

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content signals, wherein at least a plurality of first and second ECMs is provided with control information, wherein the decryptor checks the control information and delivers decrypted control words of the first or second ECMs in accordance with the control information to descramble content signals of the first or second type, respectively.

- 4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the control information of said plurality of ECMs comprises timing information, wherein a real time clock is operated at the receiver side, wherein the decryptor checks the timing information of each ECM by means of the real time clock and continues to deliver control words of the ECMs for descrambling the program signal only if the timing information corresponds with the time indication provided by the real time clock.
- 5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein a sequence identifier and a minimum delay which should pass before a next ECM should be decrypted are added to comprised in the control information of said plurality of ECMS as timing information, wherein the decryptor checks the time passed by means of the real time clock and continues to deliver a next control word only if the time passed corresponds with the minimum delay.
- 6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the control information of the ECMs comprises a sequence identifier including an index number of the previous and/or next ECMs, wherein the decryptor checks the index number of a received ECM against the expected index number, wherein the control word is only provided if the index number received matches the expected index number.

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7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the control information of an ECM comprises information on the insertion of the second type of content signals in the first type of content signals.

- 8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein at least a plurality of first ECMs provides control information for the decryptor indicating the decryptor to use a plurality of second ECMs, wherein the control information may comprise timing information on the time period for using first ECMs and on the time period for using second ECMs, and information on the point within the first type of content signals for inserting the second type of content signals.
- 9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the second type of content signals comprise content signals with corresponding ECMs representing various contents, wherein the control information of at least a part of said plurality of first ECMs comprises selection identifiers to allow only a selected content signal with corresponding ECMs to be used for insertion into the first type of content signals as second type of content signals, wherein in particular the selection identifiers select the content signal depending on the time of the day.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the decryptor forces the receiver to use all second ECMs corresponding to the time period indicated for using the second ECMs independent of the receiver being tuned to the corresponding program signal source.

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(Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the ECMs are 11. inserted in the program signal in syncrhronisation with the change of the control words used to scramble the program signal.

- 12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the decrypting means is provided as a software module broadcasted by a broadcaster, wherein the software module is executed in the receivers, wherein the software module is regularly changed by the broadcaster.
- 13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein an ECM of the first ECMs for the first type of content signals comprises control information to switch the decryptor to deliver only first ECMs for the first type of content signals if the decryptor indicates a viewing mode allowing the use of the first content signals only.
- 14. (Previously Presented) A control device for a receiver for carrying out the method according to claim 1, comprising a decryptor to retrieve the control words from ECMs by decrypting the ECMs, and for delivering decrypted control words descrambling a program signal, wherein the decryptor is adapted to check the control information of the decrypted ECMs and to insert a time slot in the first type of content signals by processing ECMs to deliver decrypted control words for descrambling at least the first type of content signals as indicated by the control information.
- 15. (Previously Presented) A control device according to claim 14, wherein the decryptor delivers decrypted control words of the first or second ECMs in accordance with the

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control words of the first or second ECMs in accordance with the control information to descramble content signals of the first or second type, respectively.

16. (Previously Presented) A control device according to claim 14, further comprising a real time clock, wherein the decryptor is adapted to check the timing information in the control information of each ECM by means of the real time clock and to continue to deliver control words of the ECMs to descramble the program signal only if the timing information corresponds with the time indication provided by the real time clock.